

*CENTENARY YEAR*

# The House of SKELTON

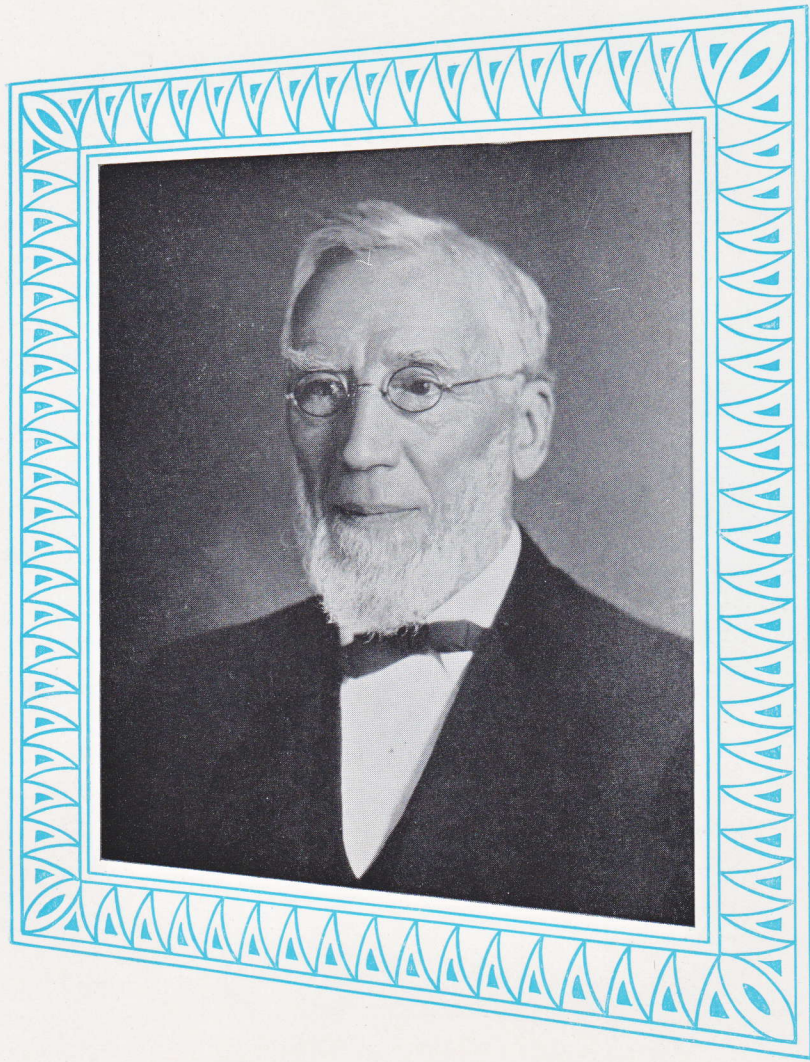
A SPADE IN THE MAKING





100  
*Skelton*





*Our Founder*

*Sir Charles Thomas Skelton*



*Announcing*  
one hundred years  
*of*  
progress

1855 — 1955

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C.T. SKELTON & CO. LTD  
SHEFFIELD ENGLAND





*Aerial view of our Sheafbank Works*



# foreword

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THIS book sets out to recount a story that is woven into the very pattern of the City of Sheffield itself, for it tells how a Sheffield craftsman, by the application of vision, industry, and ethical business principles, created an organisation that now has agencies in every corner of the world . . . that started in an insignificant shed in The Park, Sheffield, with the manufacture of spades, picks, shovels, and one or two other colliery tools, yet today includes in its catalogue, not only such items as its original products, but literally hundreds of Tested Tools of every kind.

It is not unnatural that the past century has witnessed the growth of many industrial enterprises, for despite the occurrence of two world wars within its span, it has proved itself to be an era of unprecedented progress . . . an era in which a man of the calibre of Sir Charles T. Skelton—with his unlimited moral and physical integrity—could have met with nothing less than complete success.

In this year of our Centenary it is, therefore, to our founder, Sir Charles, that we wish to pay a special tribute. Throughout the whole of his life he showed himself to be completely worthy of the successes that he achieved, and enriched by Civic and National Honours, he proved to the end his tireless devotion to his business, his City and his Country.

The House of Skelton has progressed far from that humble shed in The Park from which it set out a hundred years ago, but it still retains its loyalty to the first principles of its founder; principles that have been instrumental in bringing the business to its present universal status, and that will guide it unerringly on its march into the future.

Finally, our undoubted thanks are due to all those customers, at home and overseas, who have supported our endeavours and helped to carry the name of "SKELTON" into the dimmest and most distant parts of the globe.



# history, since foundation

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It is an unfortunate fact that many of the actual written records of the foundation and early days of the business were destroyed by a disastrous fire in April, 1921, a short record of which appears on page 18. Happily, however, many events have survived as anecdotes in the life of Sir Charles himself, and have been recounted to us by descendants of the folk who knew him. It is in this way, for instance, that we hear of Charles Skelton, in the early days, arriving at the shed each morning dressed in frock coat and top hat ; sallying forth to collect orders in this guise until lunchtime—or dinner time as they called it then—when he hurried home to eat a hasty meal and change into working clothes before returning to his shed to make the spades, shovels and picks, orders for which he had booked in the morning!

It was this assiduity of Charles' that persuaded him to act as factor for other local manufacturers and thus add considerably to the profits to be made from the sale of his own limited output. His enthusiasm for undertaking this function must have been enormous, for looking back to a "SKELTON" catalogue of 1896, we find him offering such curious lines as Fire Irons, Leather Polishes, and many other items now considered unsuitable for the Company to handle.

Charles T. Skelton rapidly built up an enviable reputation in the "Home Counties" of Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, and Lincolnshire, both for the quality of the goods he supplied and his consistent integrity both as an agent and a supplier . . . and, wherever he went, his straight-dealing soon came to be recognised as the equivalent of a guarantee.

In the early days of the business his brother Fred acted as Production Manager, but one day—so the story is told!—he approached Charles and said: "Look Charles, this business may satisfy me and thee, but as we both have families it won't be big enough for all of them!" and, there and then, he suggested that he should open up a similar business of his own in Canada, borrowing such drawings and prints as he would need to get going. This move was agreed upon, and to prevent any possibility of the brothers stepping on each other's toes in identical markets, they sat down seriously in the office and divided out the world between them. This was a situation that had originally developed owing to the rapid expansion of home trade and the brothers' realisation of the need for opening up overseas markets in the non-too-distant future.

Perhaps it is not widely realised that, of the many thousands of patterns of Spades, Forks, etc., catalogued even today by "SKELTONS," the majority of these



owe their origin to the work of local blacksmiths . . . each pattern being transferred to factory production with the passing of time. Naturally this rearrangement of production, from individual craftsmen to the industrial factory, soon led to big expansion in the works, and the development of the British market until it covered every county from Cornwall to Caithness ; so that as long ago as 1885, it became advisable to break into the foreign market, and in that year a representative was appointed in Holland. Three years later Mr. Sam Skelton, son of the founder, set out upon the first of his three world tours, with the idea of extending trade to the Colonies.

When the site for the present works at Sheafbank came to be bought, in 1870, it was found that in order to level it, it was necessary to remove a bank that proved to contain excellent clay. Not only did this bank provide many of the bricks for the new project, but it also encouraged Charles Skelton to turn brickmaker . . . selling what bricks he did not require for his own purposes in the open market.

With the increased capacity of this new, large factory a new demand for expansion of sales was created, and it became imperative to cover the whole of the British Isles, and tap the potentialities of the Colonies as well. And so agents were also established in Malay, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa.

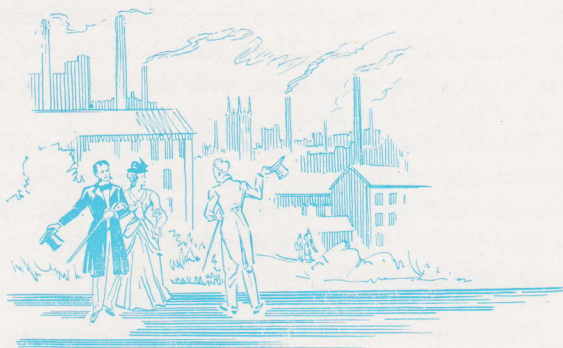
During this period Mr. William and Mr. Sam Skelton played an important part in the development of the business—William acting as Production Manager and Sam as Sales Manager. It was, in fact, very largely due to their efforts that “SKELTON” Tools found their way in ever larger quantities, to an ever-widening market!

And so, year by year, the organisation grew in stature, under the able control of Mr. Charles Skelton and his sons. It was the World War of 1914 that first halted its stride, then, naturally, the greater part of its production was diverted to war material.

Between the first and second World Wars trade suffered an almost universal collapse, and in common with many other countries the United Kingdom experienced an unparalleled era of high unemployment. It was a trying period for all concerned, particularly Employers of labour, since the work available was not really sufficient to keep factories running on reduced staffs for three days a week. Profits almost completely disappeared, and Industry generally experienced heavy losses, bringing about a complete cessation of business in many quarters and stringent Capital re-construction in others. It says a good deal for the foundation and general fabric of our Company that we were able to survive this dreadful period, using the time to considerable advantage, so that we were ready for the improvement in trading conditions which gradually became evident in the 1930's.

Even the passing of a hundred years has neither called-for, nor encouraged any deviation from those strict principles upon which the company was founded . . . principles of honest dealing, high quality, and impeccable finish in every SKELTON product. The name of “SKELTON” means absolute dependability wherever edged tools are used . . . and they have served their customers with the same loyalty as they have served their country in two world wars.





*Our Founder Sir Charles Thomas Skelton*

*An appreciation....*

There can be little doubt that the House of Skelton owes much of its prosperity and high reputation throughout the world, to our founder, Charles T. Skelton, himself. A deeply religious man with a high sense of his civic duty, he established the firm upon sound principles of complete integrity and reliability in each one of his deals. A tireless craftsman himself, he had no time to spare for the "second best" . . . and only goods of the most unquestionable quality stood any chance of satisfying his critical eye. It was his determination that the name of "SKELTON" should be synonymous with supreme craftsmanship, wherever it became known.

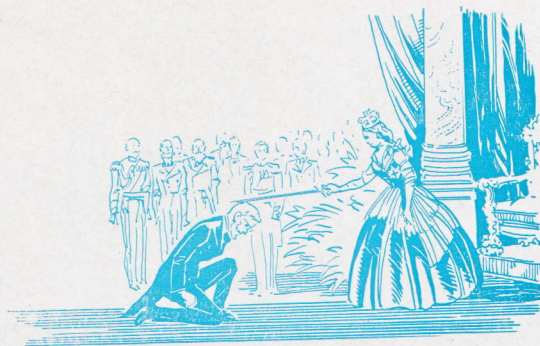




Starting upon these principles, it was not long before his business became known for honest-dealing and high quality, both in the goods he made and those he only factored.

A pillar of the Nonconformist Church in Sheffield, a strict teetotaler and non-smoker, there were many people—as may be imagined—who were ready to call him narrow—and even “hard”! But, in truth, he was an extremist insofar as he stood by his religious, his business and his civic opinions to the end. But, while he gained the reputation of being a hard master and a remorseless opponent, he was an acknowledged peacemaker and during the thirty-three years in which he served upon the City Council he was always anxious to appeal for the withdrawal of troublesome motions.

He joined the City Council at the age of 47 and continued his municipal work until the time of his death in 1913. In 1894, he was elected Mayor of Sheffield, and towards the end of his year of office was raised to the Aldermanic Bench. Two years later, as Deputy Mayor, he undertook heavy duties in preparation for the visit of Queen Victoria, when she came to Sheffield to open the New Town Hall. It was, no doubt, owing to his service in this direction, and also for his outstanding merit in other ways, that he was knighted at the close of the Queen's visit.



An indefatigable worker himself, it seemed natural that the business he developed should—within a hundred years—become a large organisation with world-wide representation. His work-people always regarded him with their deepest respect, for beneath his hard exterior lay a keen interest in their well-being.

Sir Charles died at the age of 80 years—in 1913—with his keen business sense unblunted, and with the upright bearing of a much younger man.





# *Sons of the Founder*



WILLIAM SIMMONDS SKELTON, I.P.



SAM EDGAR SKELTON



It was a happy circumstance that Sir Charles Skelton was blessed with two sons of such diligence and enthusiasm as William Simmonds Skelton and Sam Edgar Skelton, for these men, between them, played a tremendous part in the building up of the business—from its early days until the 1930's. It was not long after the entry of the two brothers into the business that William took charge of production, and Sam of the sales side. They were to maintain their interests in these sections of the business for the rest of their lives.

Following the death of Sir Charles Skelton, Mr. William took over the Chairmanship, and became Managing Director of the Company. Under his control the firm continued to prosper and expand. His chief love was the Factory, and the maintenance of high quality, in keeping with the ideals of the Founder. There is no doubt whatever that on this basis the Works developed in line with ever increasing demands from the Sales side, which was constantly expanding the firm's interests throughout the world.

He was, like his father, a staunch teetotaler and a rigid Nonconformist. He was also, again like his father, a deeply interested follower of both politics and civic affairs. He became President of the Ecclesall Liberal Association and Vice-President of the Sheffield Liberal Federation. On many occasions, both in Sheffield and outside, he was urged to stand for Parliament, but refused to do so. He served for some years on the City Council, from which he retired in 1924. Also Chairman of Committee of the Sheffield Musical Union he occupied this office until his death. In the year 1918, he was made a Member of The British Empire for his activities in connection with the Sheffield Munitions Committee.

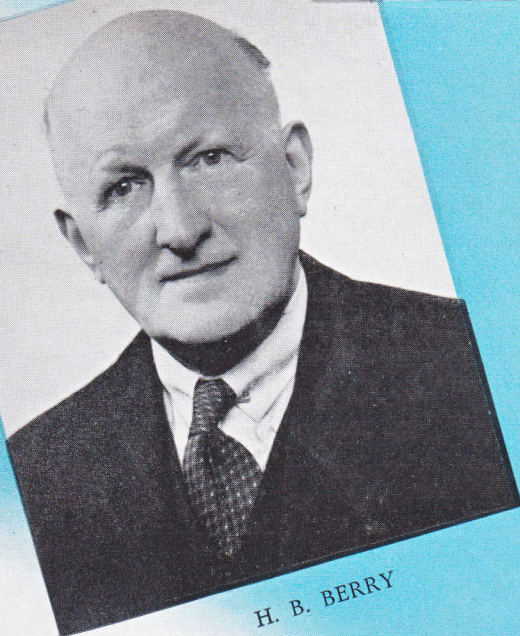
His interest in the business never wavered, and he maintained his connection with the company with the utmost zeal and after working so hard in the years between the wars, it fell to his lot to stand by and watch this labour brought to a standstill by the catastrophic fire of April, 1921. Then from the ashes he raised a new and more modern factory, and continued to foster further developments until his death in 1931 at the age of 73 on November the 11th.

There is no doubt at all that although Mr. Sam in charge of Commercial Management, was concerned in all branches of selling, the emphasis in his outlook was quite definitely on the development of Overseas Trade. It was as long ago as 1888 that he embarked with his wife upon a lengthy and hazardous trip including Australia, New Zealand, The Straits and Ceylon, and South Africa, with a view to examining the possibilities of opening up trade in these Dominions. It was on his return from this first trip that Mr. Sam received an illuminated address from the Staff and Workpeople, which took the form of thankfulness for the safe passage throughout the perilous adventure, and the successful outcome of Mr. Sam's business projects. Mr. Sam made two later world voyages, developing and cementing business.

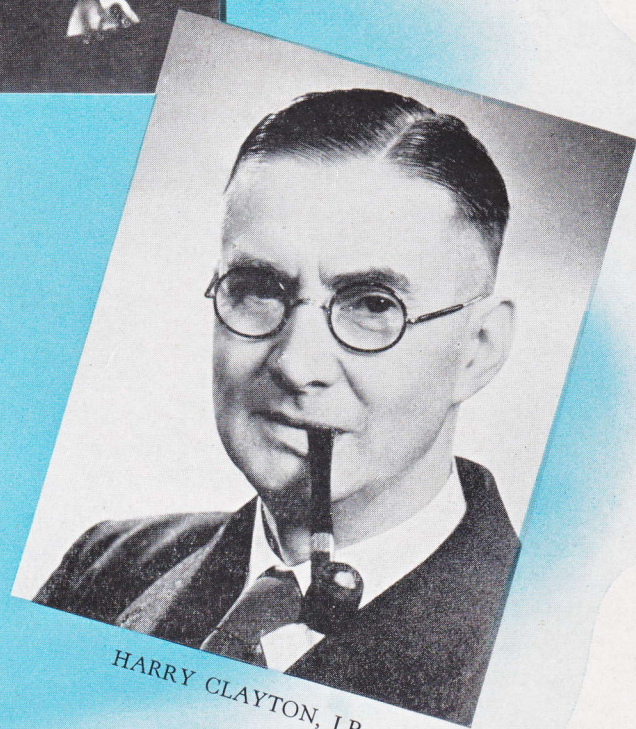
Mr. Sam out-lived his brother—William—by eight years. He died on the 29th May, 1939, just a few weeks after he was taken ill. This break virtually ended the family link in the actual management of the Company.



C. V. APPERSON



H. B. BERRY



HARRY CLAYTON, J.P.



# *The inter-war years . . .*

For a few years after the Armistice in 1918, boom conditions were much in evidence, but in the early 20's there was a decline in general trade which quickly turned to the Great Slump. There was a mounting tide of unemployment, and it became a grim struggle for existence. Many firms failed to survive. Both Mr. William and Mr. Sam were getting older. It was in these circumstances that Mr. C. V. Apperson, Mr. H. B. Berry and Mr. H. Clayton were brought more and more into Executive Management and appointed to the Board. Mr. Apperson became responsible for commercial matters, Mr. Berry for production, and Mr. Clayton took charge of the London end of the business and export problems generally. 1925-1935 was a most difficult decade in the firm's history, but the period of quiet trading was used in preparation and hope for the future, so that as business began to improve in the late 1930's the Company was equipped to take advantage of the position.

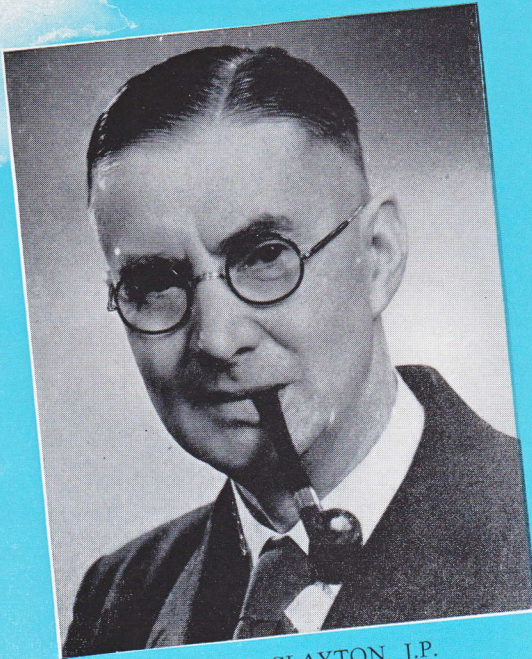
Then came 1939 and World War II. Normal development was stopped almost over-night, and very quickly we turned over to war-time production of Shell Forgings, Tank and Aeroplane parts of many descriptions. Fortunately there is, and always has been a very strong Mining and Agricultural bias in our business, and the production of coal, and the growing of more food at Home demanded that the tools for the job should be provided. The energies of all our people here, Management, Staff and Workpeople were stretched to the limit, in common with all other people in these Islands, to make the fullest possible contribution in the cause of freedom and justice for all.

Mr. C. V. Apperson retired in 1948 and died not very long afterwards on the 1st December, 1950.

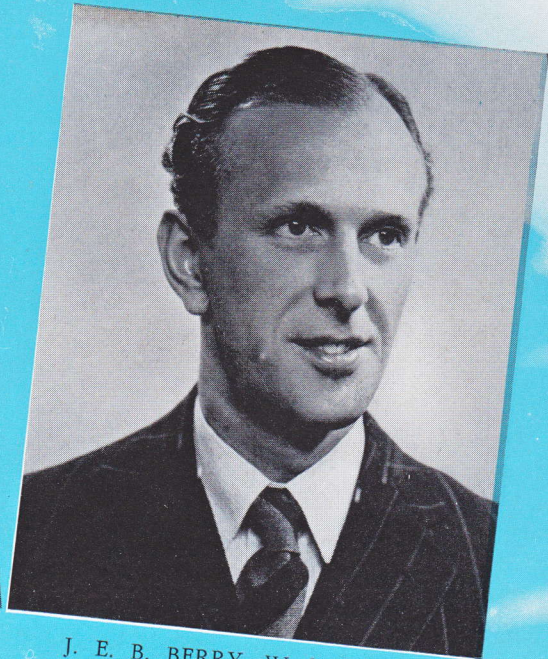
Mr. H. B. Berry retired in 1953 and died after a short illness on the 31st August, 1954.



# *Present Management & Directors*



HARRY CLAYTON, J.P.  
Chairman and Managing Director



J. E. B. BERRY, Works Director



W. ROGER CLAYTON, Sales Director



R. E. GILL, Secretary



Mr. Harry Clayton joined the Company on demobilization in 1919. In charge of the Home Department of the Factory until 1926, he was then transferred to London to deal with Export Trade and the Metropolitan business generally. Appointed a Director in 1935. Mr. Clayton undertook a business tour round the World in 1938, visiting Canada, the Pacific Islands, New Zealand, Australia and South Africa. Returned to the Factory in 1939, after outbreak of hostilities, and was concerned with export matters in particular, and more generally with questions affecting both Sales and Production. Appointed President of the Garden Shear Association in 1940, and became a member of the Edge Tool Council in the same year, both of which positions have been held continuously ever since. Member of a Ministry of Supply Advisory Panel during the last War. On the cessation of hostilities it was decided to form a Federation of all British Hand Tool Manufacturers, to deal first of all with the transition from war to peace and subsequently with general requirements of the Trade. Mr. Clayton presided at the inaugural Meeting of the Federation in 1945, and was appointed its first Chairman. Has had two periods of office as Chairman of the Edge Tool Council. For several years Mr. Clayton has held the office of Chairman of the Sheffield Lighter Trades Employers' Association, an organisation which negotiates on wages and labour questions for the Employers over a large field of Sheffield Industry. Mr. Clayton has travelled a great deal abroad cementing existing business connections and developing new trade. He was in South and West Africa and Rhodesia in 1946, and again in 1952. He was also out of the Country for nearly nine months from October, 1952, on a business journey round the World, taking in the West Indies, New Zealand, Australia and Ceylon. For many years has held office of Joint Managing Director and was appointed in 1953 to the position of Chairman and Managing Director of the Company.

Mr. Clayton, who is a Derbyshire Magistrate, was associated with public work in the County for over 20 years. When he retired from the County Council owing to pressure of business in 1946, he was Chairman of the County Education Committee, in which position he helped to frame the Educational proposals for the County, following the passing of the Butler Education Act in 1944. He was also Chairman of the County Boundaries Committee and a Member of the Finance Committee.

Mr. J. E. Burton Berry joined the Company in 1933 on leaving King Edward VII School, Sheffield. After a number of years experience in the Works and Tool Room he was appointed Production Manager. Elected to the Board in 1950, he became Works Manager on the retirement of his father in 1953. Mr. Berry is married and has a son and daughter.

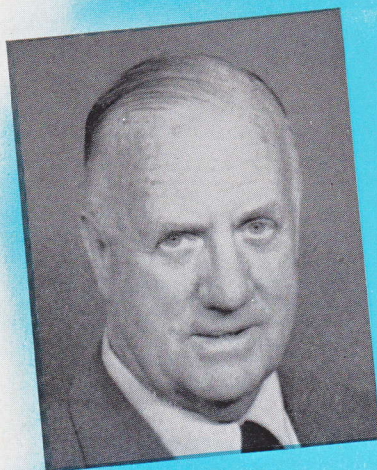
Mr. W. Roger Clayton was still at school when the War started in 1939. Passing to Sheffield University to read Engineering, he volunteered for R.A.F. Service at the end of his first year. Got his "Wings" in South Africa on completion of training early in 1943. Active Service as Flying Officer in Middle East, India, Burma and Hong Kong. Returned to the Factory in 1947. After a few months experience in each Department of the Factory became Sales Manager. Appointed a Director in 1950.

Mr. Robert E. Gill joined the Company in 1913 as Junior Ledger Clerk. Served in H.M. Forces from 1916-1918. On demobilization returned to the firm to take charge of the Sales Ledgers. After a few years was placed in control of all the Accountancy Departments. Appointed Secretary of the Company in December, 1948.



# *Skeltons overseas...*

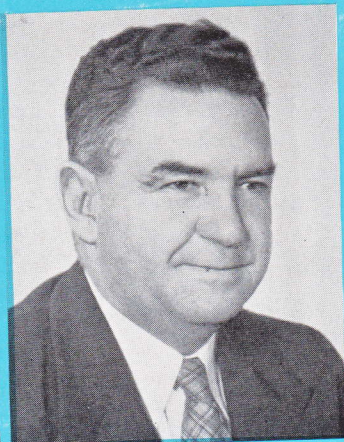
## AFRICA



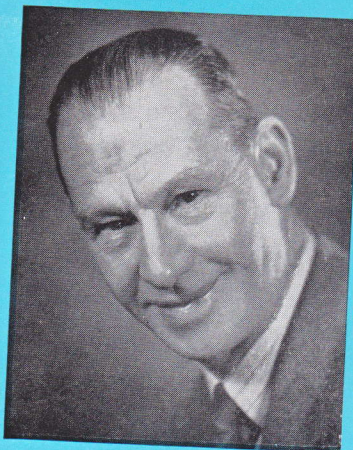
J. STANLEY CASWELL,  
Johannesburg.

Principal Agent controlling Union of South Africa, Rhodesias, Nyasaland, Portuguese East Africa.

*Died 8th August, 1955, whilst visiting England.*



W. D. SUTTIE,  
Johannesburg.  
In charge of Central Office.

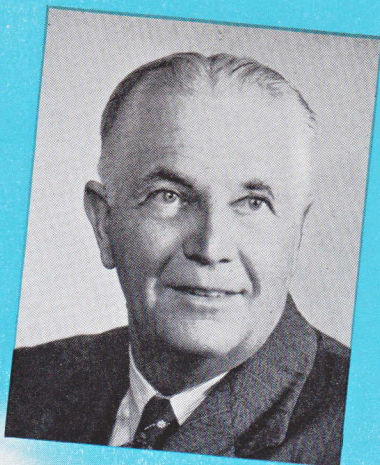


J. D. KNOWLES,  
Durban.  
Representative.

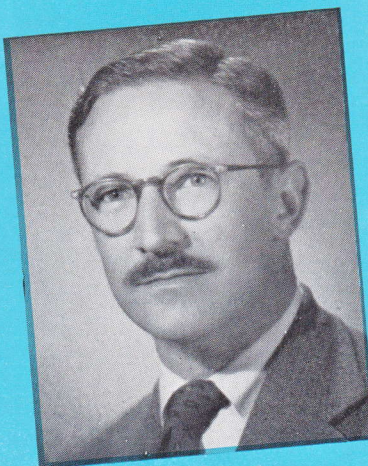


W. G. TAYLOR,  
Capetown.  
Representative.

## NEW ZEALAND



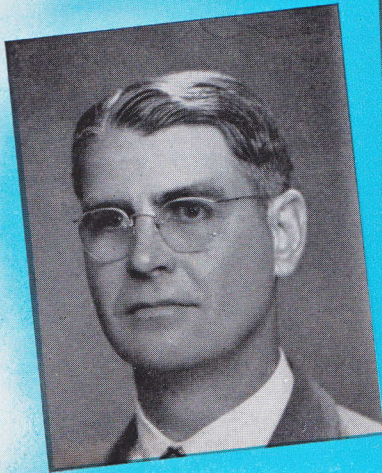
G. D. LITTLE,  
Wellington,  
Principal Agent.



MICHAEL EVISON,  
Wellington,  
Representative.



## AUSTRALIA



W. GEOFFREY COX,  
Sydney.  
Principal Agent for  
Commonwealth of  
Australia.



JOHN TUCKETT,  
Sydney.  
Representative.



F. A. THATCHER,  
Sydney.  
Sales Manager.



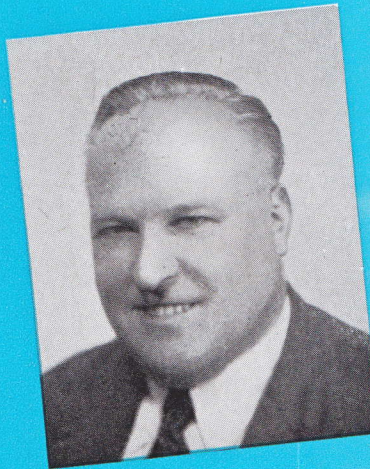
B. C. UNMACK,  
Melbourne.  
Representative.

## ARGENTINE

## SOUTH AMERICA



R. N. LOCKWOOD,  
Buenos Aires.  
Principal Agent.



EDGAR GUNSTONE,  
Kingston.  
Travelling Representative,  
West Indies and South  
America.

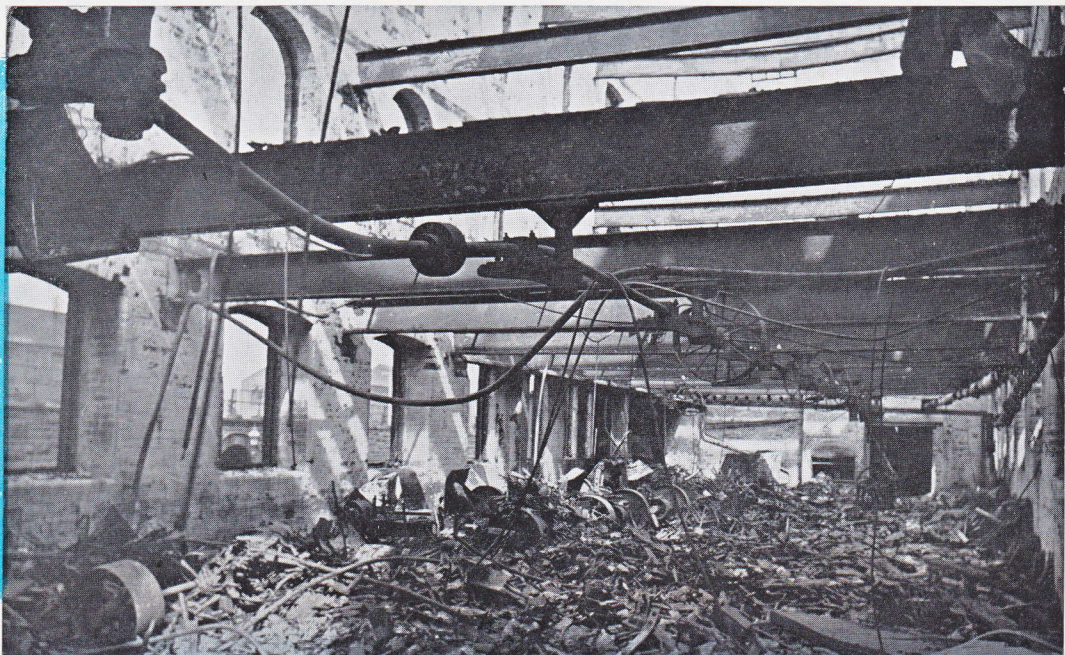


# *The Great Fire . . .*

On Saturday, April 23rd, 1921, at seven o'clock in the evening, the caretaker of Sheafbank Works discovered one of the departments well ablaze, and despite the efforts of the Fire Brigade, the flames licked their way through from shop to shop, engulfing building after building until the whole factory was gutted. The damage was estimated at £100,000, and 400 SKELTON employees were thrown out of work in a single night. Considered to be the largest fire ever to be seen in Sheffield, only the forge escaped destruction, and looking back to the newspaper reports of that time it appears that the conflagration was indeed awe-inspiring. The flames could be seen for miles around and constant explosions added still further to the terrifying spectacle.

A million gallons of water poured upon the premises, failed to halt the advance of the flames, and when the fire had burnt itself out the scene was one of utter desolation. The only fortunate point about the blaze was the fact that no casualties were involved.

Mr. William Skelton, who had been an unwilling witness of the scene, took instant steps to re-establish the business with a view to setting his employees to work again. This was a typical gesture of the man, for although there was no prodigal generosity in his makeup he was always just and generous when it came to the welfare of his workers.





*April 1921...*





# *A recent visitor's*

## *impressions . . . .*

Although, over the past thirty-odd years, I have spent countless hours in visiting and recording the activities of many industries, it was in abysmal ignorance as to the making of garden and general tools that I entered the offices of C. T. Skelton & Co., Ltd., at Sheafbank Works, Sheffield . . . a factory that I left, a couple of hours later, with my mind so confused by the multiplicity of mysteries which I had seen, that apart from a boundless respect for the masterly organisation of such outstanding craftsmanship, I was completely unable to piece together the numerous processes that go to the making of a Spade, or to collate them into their natural sequence. I shall simply continue to call a spade a spade . . . and leave it at that!

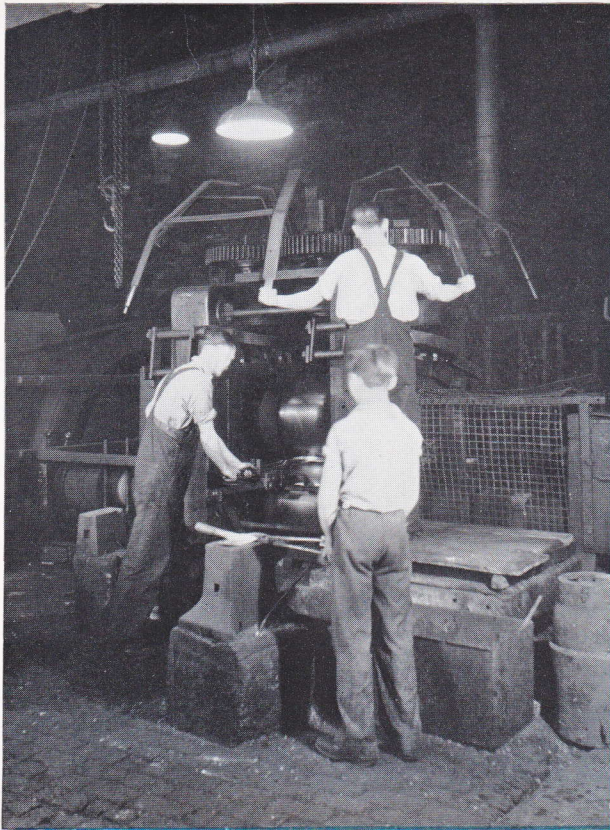
From the moment when I entered the deceptively unimposing office entrance—which was tucked away in, what seemed to be, an inconsidered corner behind the railway—I was to meet wonders at every step . . . not the least of which, was the discovery that this self-effacing entrance concealed a vast factory, having a ground area of 3 acres, and on 5 working levels.

Upon leaving the office, I passed a showcase full of Stainless Steel Garden Tools, of such impeccable craftsmanship and finish that they must surely be regarded as a challenge to the industry, and a testimony to Skelton's traditional insistence upon quality.









ROLLING SHOVELS and SPADES

First of all, I was conducted to the heavy forge and rolling mill which appeared to me to be, roughly, the size of the Wembley Stadium! From the further end of this department to the door through which I left the office was roughly—one-fifth of a mile!

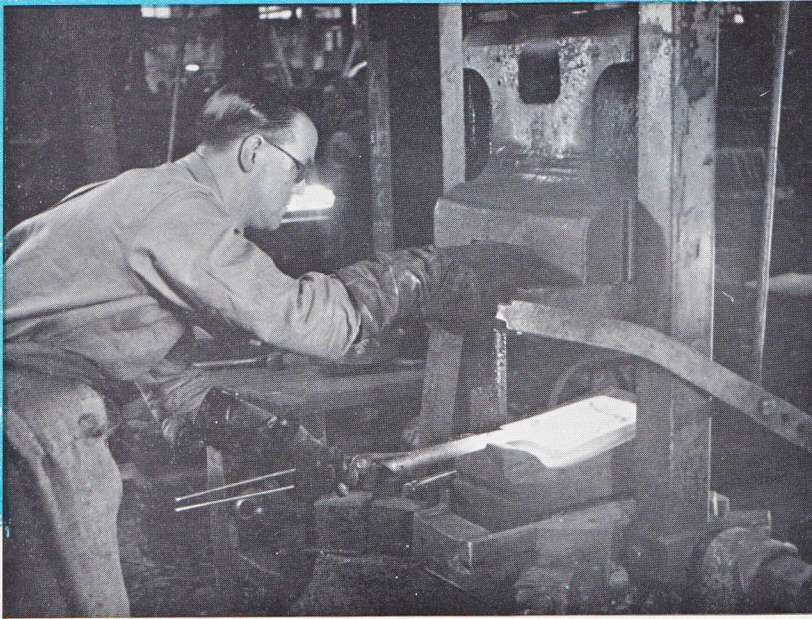
After a first look round, I christened this shop "Skelton's Inferno," for wherever I looked, were fiery furnaces, and red-hot pieces of steel flying through the air on every hand, except—I am grateful to say—on mine!

Here were the metal stores, containing thousands of pieces of steel, each one dimensioned for the making of one of the hundreds of tools in the Skelton catalogue.

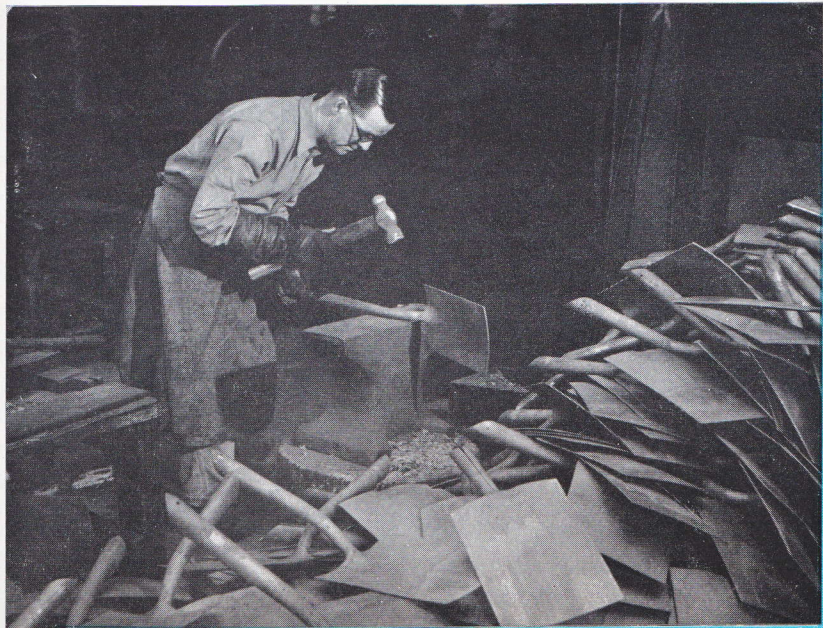
It gave me an immediate impression of the imposing cavalcade of tools that must leave these works for every corner of the world!

I set out to explore this vast department with considerable trepidation, for a constant shower of red-hot spades and forks, and other tools, flashed by me at every stride, with apparent indifference, to land with complete precision upon the heap which was their foreordained destination. It looked as though I was about to be grilled at any moment . . . but actually, everything was under perfect control—with the possible exception of my nerves



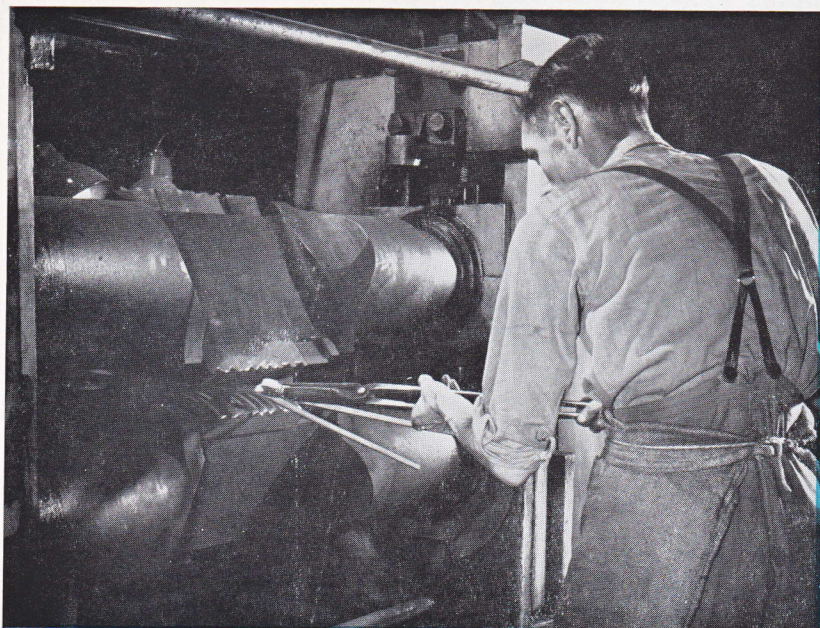


STAMPING SPADE BLADES



SETTING and TESTING SPADE BLADES

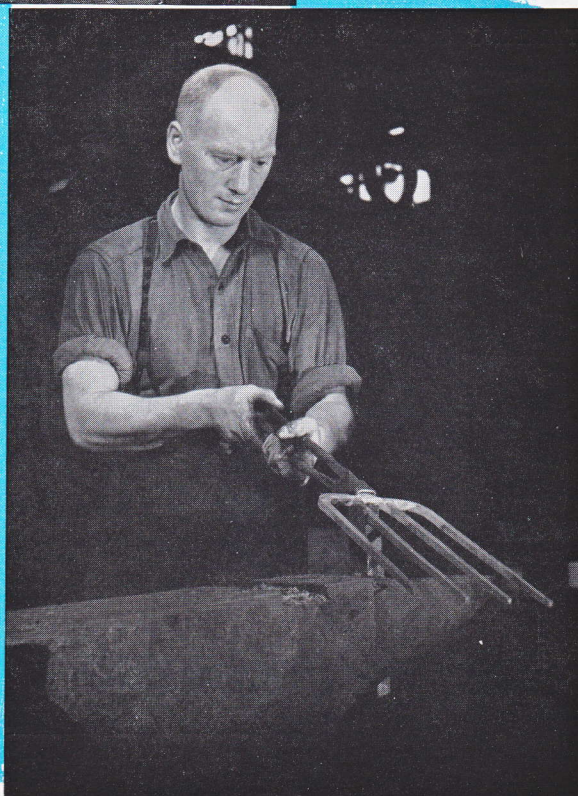




FORK ROLLING MILL

As I progressed, my guide gave me a running commentary upon each phase in the making of a spade or fork, but the constant thud of hammers and the clang of falling steel, rendered his words almost inaudible . . . so I have now little left beyond my personal impressions, and but the vaguest smattering of those technicalities which, under quieter circumstances I might have gleaned.

I saw blades in embryo, in every size and shape, commence their evolution in the furnaces. I saw blanks that looked like blades seen in a comic mirror—absurdly thick, yet so distorted that it seemed incredible they could be drawn through rollers to emerge



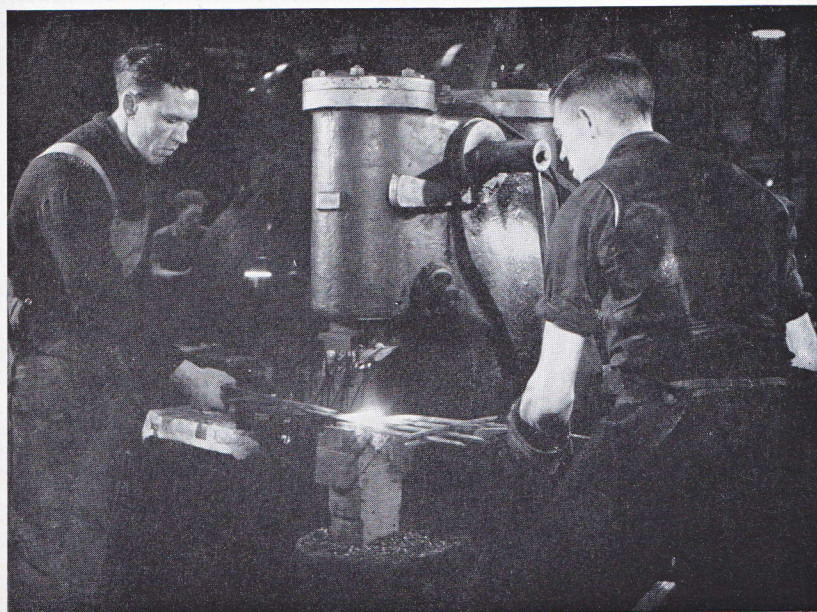
FORK SETTING



as a perfectly proportioned blade with weldless straps—in one piece! I watched and saw forks take shape from flat featureless blanks . . . I saw the prongs beaten into their correct sections under the hammers, trimmed and pointed under other machines and finally tested before leaving the department.

My final impression as I left this “nerve-wrackery” was of a carefully cultivated disregard for the menace of flying red-hot steel! But beneath this apparent indifference lay the very real respect with which each man treated the pieces that came his way—or, for that matter went anybody else’s way! So well were they drilled to the possibility of making an unfortunate mistake that no man would pick anything up without the safeguard of taking a long pair of tongs with which to handle it! On more than one occasion, I was dissuaded from picking up a part-formed blade, by the suggestion that it would probably prove to be too hot to hold.

As I left this shop, I felt much as St. George must have felt when he watched the last spark die out of his Dragon. I am still hoping nobody noticed that my interest had actually been far more apprehensive than it had been comprehensive.



STRAPPING FORKS



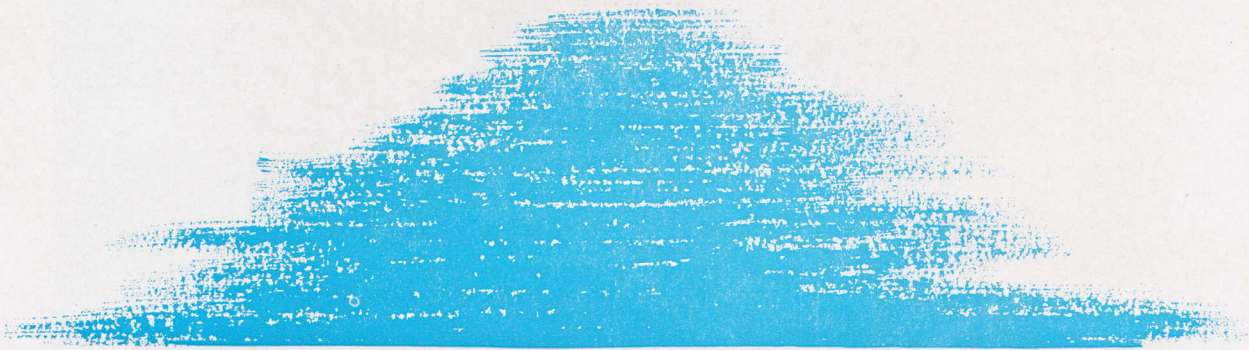


GRINDING




GRINDING





From here I moved into the comparatively beneficent atmosphere of the Grinding Room, where amidst a shower of sparks that—after my immediately previous experience—looked as cool as ice, spades forks and other tools were receiving a trim-up on the grinding wheels before being passed on for their final grooming.

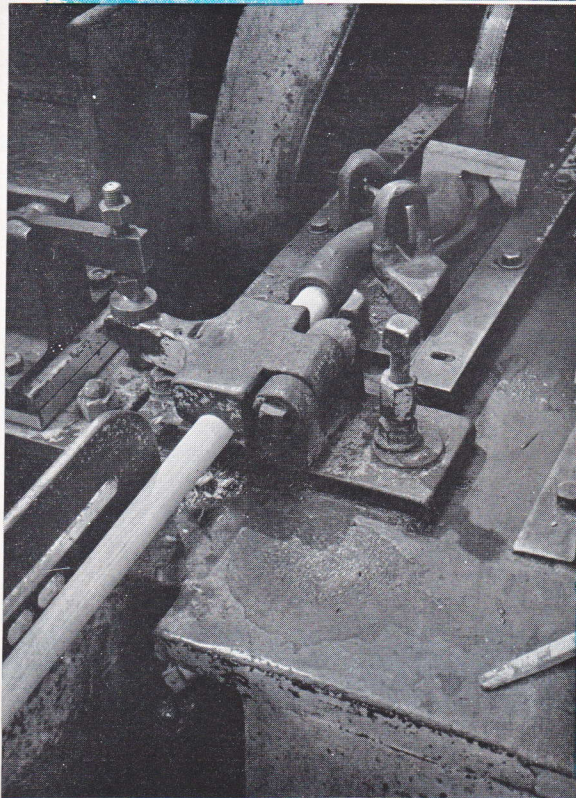
A short walk brought me to the varnishing department and introduced me to another touch of wizardry, for here I watched countless small tools of every description being led, automatically, into vats of paint ; an orderly procession controlled by machines that seemed to know precisely what was good for them, and just how long they should remain in their baths in order to achieve the “ Skelton ” complexion !





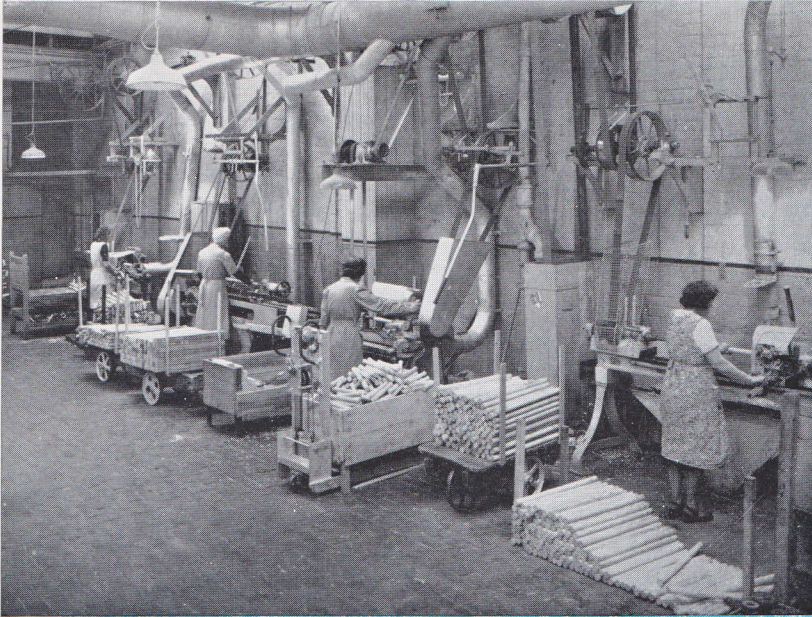


TIMBER STOCKS SEASONING



BENDING HANDLES





AUTOMATIC WOOD TURNING

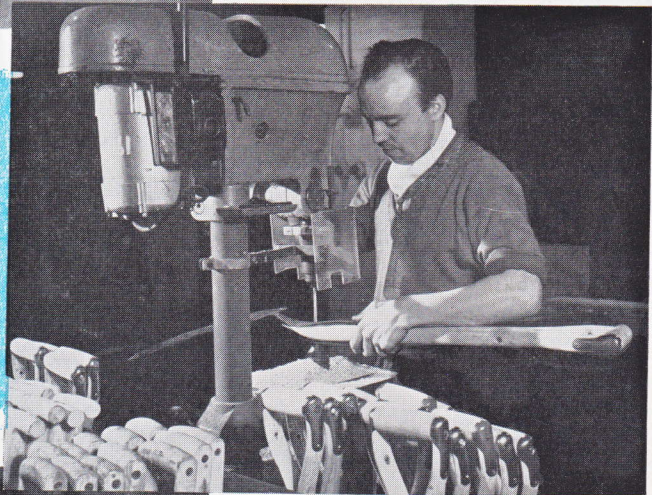
Next . . . the Wood Turning Shop, where shafts and handles for forks, spades, and other tools, were shaped on machines of unimaginable ingenuity. I was amazed, for it had never previously occurred to me to wonder just how a spade handle was formed ; how, for instance, the wooden " Y " handle was prepared, by cutting a wide slot down the centre of the shaft, steaming the wood, and while it was still warm, forcing it out to the correct shape, by inserting a core down the slot and coaxing the halves of the shaft outwards until they came against a sort of mould. Steam was also used to form, what I can only describe as, swan-neck shaft ends . . . and I am told that once the wood has been bent in this way, any attempt to restore its original contour would merely result in a fracture.





SHAFTING SHOP

From here, I was led to where the final processes of assembly were being applied . . . where spades, forks and shovels were fitted to their shafts with a nicety that could neither tolerate a loose fit, nor condone one so tight that it would necessitate extreme pressure to force the handle on to the spade . . . much to the disadvantage of both spade and handle!



DRILLING STRAPS  
FOR SHAFTING



ROLLING STRAPS ON TO HANDLES





BELTING HANDLES & SOCKETS



Then, through the Belting Shop and on to the finishing Warehouse where I saw tools proudly receiving their "Skelton" label.



After a glance round this warehouse, even my sceptical mind was fully prepared to accept the claim that "Skelton" Tools are Tested and Proved throughout the World, and that their craftsmanship can have nothing to fear wherever Edged Tools are finding a market!



FINISHING

WAREHOUSE

Just escaping being labelled by the skin of my teeth, I followed the tools through to the Packing Warehouse, where the cases awaiting despatch read like a gazeteer.





WAREHOUSE ASSEMBLY, RAKES, HOES, SHEARS, ETC.

Not only were all our Colonies and Dominions represented, but many other corners of Europe, Africa, India, and many more "far flung" names that were not even places to me!



WAREHOUSE ASSEMBLY, SPADES, SHOVELS AND FORKS





A shipment commencing  
its journey to  
South America

## digging fresh ground

A hundred years is a long way to travel ; so far in fact that almost any Company could be excused an inclination to lay down its tools, rest upon the peak of its present eminence, and bury, for all time, the pioneering hatchet with which, for so many years, it has fought its way through triumph and hardship. But the House of Skelton was not built to this design, and today, it views the road ahead with a calm and well-founded confidence. It is to the foresight of its founder, Sir Charles Skelton, that it holds within its present site vast areas for development. Its markets spread to ever wider horizons, impelled by those principles of honest and enviable craftsmanship that Sir Charles, himself, founded with the business a century ago. The name of SKELTON has become a passport to almost every country of the world where there still exists an abundant respect for the best British steel and craftsmanship represented for so many centuries by the products of the City of Sheffield.



# An old invoice....

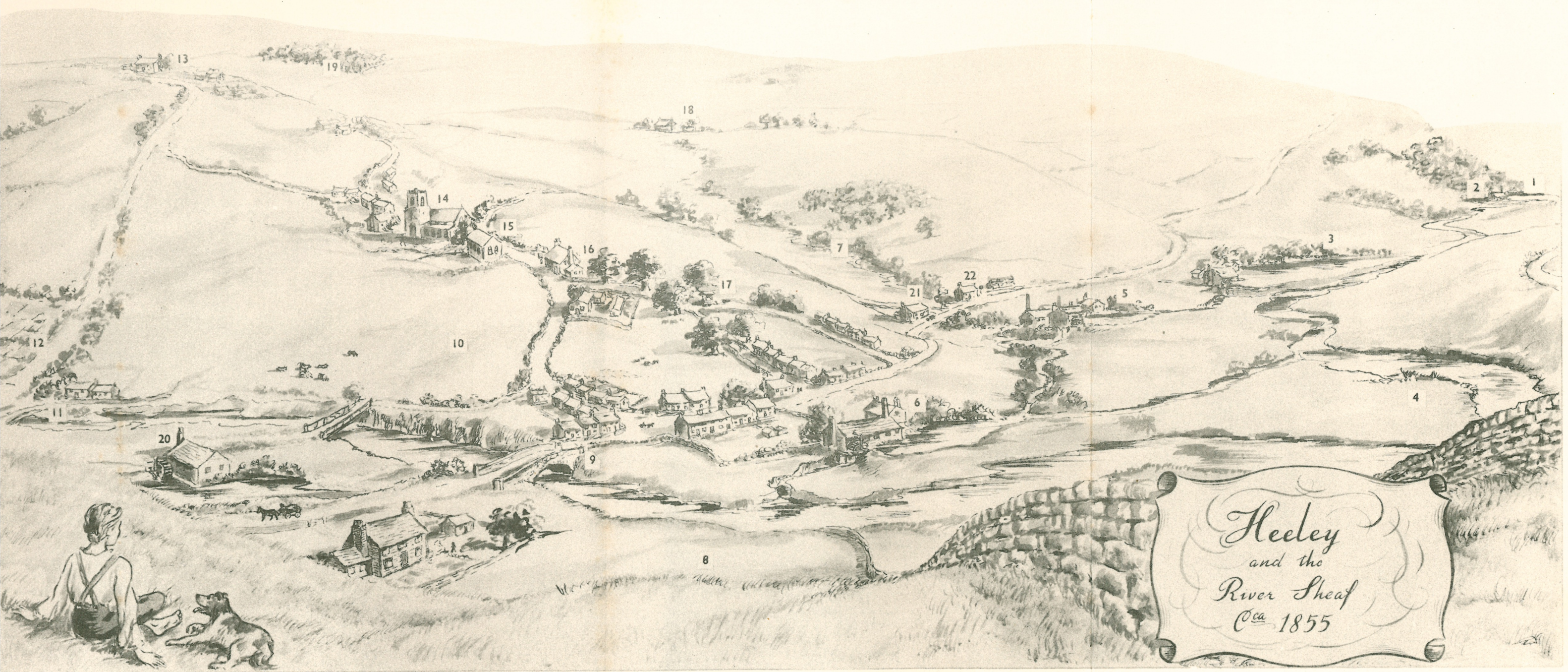
NORFOLK WORKS, NORWICH STREET, PARK  
Sheffield, *November 24<sup>th</sup> 1863*

*Mr Joseph Holme*  
Bought of *C. J. Shelton & Co.,*  
MANUFACTURERS OF SPADES, SHOVELS, &c.

Box	No.	Description	Price	Total
<i>1/2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Ballast Shovel</i>	<i>2/6 - 2/6</i>	<i>1 0 1/2</i>
<i>1/4</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Ballast Shovel</i>	<i>2/6 - 2/6</i>	<i>11 0 1/4</i>
<i>1/4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Ballast Shovel</i>	<i>2/6</i>	<i>5 4 1/2</i>
<i>1/4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Ballast Shovel</i>	<i>2/6</i>	<i>5 9</i>
				<i>23 0 1/4</i>

*By Cash same time*  
*C. J. Shelton & Co.*





FOR centuries the five waterways of Sheffield provided the motive power for the cutlery and milling industries. The rivers Don, Rivelin, Porter and Loxley all had their numerous wheels and we here have a reconstruction of the Sheaf Valley and its surrounds. Following the course of the river from the south the artist portrays Norton Hammer Dam (1) and the Smithy Wood Tilt (2). Thence the river passed and fed Little London Dam (3), with its attendant smithies, and swept in almost a circle alongside Primrose Meadows (4). Before it reached Heeley Bottom it had supplied power to Heeley Mill (5), and Heeley Wheel (6) having meanwhile been reinforced by the picturesque Meersbrook (7). Bounded on the west by Broadfield Park (8) the river crossed under Chesterfield Turnpike at Heeley Bridge (9) and flowed thence to Sheafbank (10).

100 years ago Sheafbank was quite a steep verdant hillside with Cutlers' Walk a pleasant footpath at its foot. This path crossed the river and continued to follow its course right through to what is now Queens Road. Our picture then shows Havelock Bridge (11) with the river finally meandering through the allotment gardens at Olive Grove (12) where Sheffield Wednesday F.C. made their home in 1866.

In the background were many landmarks which have survived in some measure to the present day. Myrtle Road and the Ball Inn (13). Christ Church (14) and the old Methodist Church (15) which still bears the inscription 1829 over the doorway. Heeley Green and Newfield Green were open air pulpits of John Wesley and his followers.

Immediately behind Sheafbank was Plum Pudding Lane or Dirty Lane at Upper Heeley, with the Shakespeare Hotel (16) at the crossroads of Gleadless Road and Great Oak Street, and the Well (17) (Well Road) a popular rendezvous. Further in the distance we can make out the Bishop's House (Norton Lees) (18) and Cat Lane Wood (19).

In the foreground the boy is depicted sitting on Highfield with his back to the descent into Little Sheffield and Sheffield Moor. In his immediate view is Heeley Tilt (20) and the Chesterfield Turnpike at Lowfield which after crossing Heeley Bridge continues through Heeley Nether past the old stage coach hostleries, The White Lion (21) and The Red Lion (22) thence southward over the hill.